

Wethersfield Youth Advisory Board

Town Hall ~ 505 Silas Deane Highway ~ Wethersfield, CT 06109

Phone: 860-721-2977

Meeting held: March 12, 2009

Present: Olivia Fortunato, Casey Lilley, Meg O'Connor, Nancy Stilwell, Christopher Gillette, Donna Forrest, Kathi St. Onge, Norberto Mendez, Cheri Moore, Debra Hammer, Mary Ellen Gregorio, Barbara Ruhe, Holly Dyjak, Jennifer Paquette

NAME	EMAIL	MEMBER/ LIAISON	PRESENT	ABSENT	EXCUSED ABSENCE
Colleen Budaj/Cheri Moore SDMS	cbudaj@wethersfield.k12.ct.us cmoore@wethersfield.k12.ct.us	M	X		
Donna Forrest	dforrest@wethersfield.k12.ct.us	M	X		
Matthew Forrest Town Council	matthew.forrest@wethersfield.org	L			X
Olivia Fortunato <18	fortunatoo@aol.com	M-Chair	X		
Christopher Gillette <18		M	X		
Mary Ellen Gregorio	mgregorio@wethersfield.k12.ct.us	M	X		
Debra Hammer	dlh88@sbcglobal.net	M	X		
Casey Lilley <18	cml4392@aol.com	M-V. Chair	X		
Norberto Mendez WPD	Norberto.mendez@wethersfieldct.com	M	X		
Thomas Moore WHS	tmoore@wethersfield.k12.ct.us	M		X	
Meg O'Connor <18	meg_o'connor@missporters.org	M-Secty	X		
Barbara J. Ruhe	bjrue@snet.net	M	X		
Nancy Stilwell DSYS	nancy.stilwell@wethersfieldct.com	L	X		
Kathi St. Onge K-8	kstonge@wethersfield.k12.ct.us	M	X		
Holly Dyjak	hmdyjak@msn.com		X		
Jennifer Paquette	jenniferlpaquette@yahoo.com		X		
VACANCY					

The meeting was called to order at 7:05

Minutes: Jennifer Paquette made a motion to accept the February 5th minutes, and Donna Forrest seconded this motion. The minutes were accepted.

DSYS Update:

- ☞ Staff cuts necessary and only core services will be able to be sustained: ROPE and DARE possibly ending
- ☞ Police officers hoping to have a youth drop-in center; there will be a meeting to talk about community service
- ☞ Norberto Mendez is organizing a basketball game on April 3rd where the proceeds would go to Safe Prom and the DARE program. Volunteers would be helpful.
- ☞ Discussed the possibility that direct aid for specific programs could be obtained by calling a congressman's office (i.e the office of Congressman Larson)

YAB Update:

One Book One School:

- ☞ Casey has a meeting with Mindy Wilkie and the superintendent to find out what books are available that are out of the curriculum.
- ☞ Discussed that in the past (at SDMS) fewer books were necessary because teachers read to the students
- ☞ Discussed the possibility of partnering with universities or Linda McMahon (WWE, runs literacy programs around CT)
- ☞ Meg will contact small publishers and see if there is any way that they can help.

Volunteer Recognition Night:

- ☞ Nancy Stilwell got the forms professionally printed for \$40
- ☞ Holly obtained four movie tickets, an iPod, and 2 pizza gift certificates.
- ☞ Refreshments donated by the nursing home on Jordan Lane; Nancy will order and bring the cake
- ☞ Jennifer Paquette made a motion to approve spending up to \$75 for postcards for Volunteer Recognition Night invitations; Holly Dyjak seconded this motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote in favor.

Movie Night:

- ☞ Turnout for the movie night was less than what we hoped for, though it allowed an opportunity for different groups (such as a group of hearing impaired students) to meet new people
- ☞ Discussed the possibility of having another movie night; we must plan the date carefully (try to have it when students will already be together—following another event—or the night before a large sports game when teams will want to bond)

Get in Touch Foundation:

- ☞ Casey introduced this NPO that teaches school-aged girls about breast cancer
- ☞ The foundation is not looking for money from us but would like resources and networking
- ☞ The YAB would like to hear more details about this program

Community of Concern:

- ☞ Nancy Stilwell talked about a program about drug and alcohol education and prevention
- ☞ There is a meeting for parents on March 31st at WHS at 6:30 PM. Everyone who can should come.
- ☞ Norberto can provide additional resources (pamphlets, flyers, information) if we need it

Meeting adjourned at 8:21pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Meg O'Connor